



August 15, 2012

Dear California Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Managers and Members:

Several of you have brought to our attention the new partnership among the State of California, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the U.S. Forestry Service to re-vamp the State's existing anti-marijuana program into a new effort called the Cannabis Eradication and Reclamation Team – which also uses the “CERT” acronym. Have no fear – your great reputation for promoting community preparedness and supporting emergency response will not be “going up in smoke!” We want you to know we are aware of this joint use of the CERT acronym. We also want to ensure you are aware in the event any Community Emergency Response Team members pass along their concerns or have questions.

While the dual use of the CERT acronym might cause some confusion, we are confident the public will be able to clearly distinguish the efforts of the Community Emergency Response Team programs from the new Cannabis Eradication and Reclamation Team run by the DEA and Forestry Service. To help avoid any possible confusion, we encourage you to be sure to use the full program name —“Community Emergency Response Team”— the first time you reference the program in any speech, written material or other messaging, and then use “CERT” thereafter. For extra diligence, you might consider using the full program name for the first reference in each paragraph of any messaging.

California CERT programs and members (the emergency response kind) continually perform amazing work. Your local teams help strengthen, support and build the resilience of communities across the State and we get our “high” from the good work you do. Please be aware of this new development regarding the CERT acronym and please know you have our gratitude and admiration for all you do.

Best Regards,

Rachel Jacky, Director
National CERT Program
Individual and Community Preparedness Division
FEMA / DHS